

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 113898

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EUR/WE:EBIEGEL

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R 302315Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 113898

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, IT

SUBJECT- COPYRIGHT - EXTENSION OF COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION  
IN U.S.

REF: ROME 6912

1. DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS FOLLOWING COMMENTS BE USED AS A  
BASIS FOR A REPLY TO SIAE:

AS YOU MAY RECALL FROM PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE  
U.S. GOVERNMENT, THE LEGISLATION TO REVISE THE U.S. COPY-  
RIGHT LAW HAS BEEN PENDING IN THE CONGRESS FOR SEVERAL  
YEARS. THAT LEGISLATION WOULD PROVIDE COPYRIGHT PROTECTION  
FOR NEW WORKS FOR A TERM OF THE LIFETIME OF THE AUTHOR  
PLUS FIFTY YEARS AND FOR EXISTING WORKS, WHEN THE COPYRIGHT  
IS RENEWED, FOR A TOTAL TERM OF SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS. THE  
PREVIOUS MAXIMUM TERM OF 56 YEARS WOULD BE INCREASED BY 19  
YEARS FOR SUCH WORKS.

THIS LEGISLATION HAS BEEN DELAYED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS  
BECAUSE OF SUCH PROBLEMS AS COPYRIGHT TREATMENT OF COMMU-  
NITY ANTENNA TELEVISION. SINCE 1962 CONGRESS HAS PASSED  
A SERIES OF TEMPORARY BILLS EXTENDING THE TERM OF EXISTING  
COPYRIGHT BECAUSE OF SUCH DELAYS. THIS HAS BEEN DONE IN  
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PAGE 02 STATE 113898

ORDER TO PREVENT WORKS FROM FALLING INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

THAT WOULD REMAIN SUBJECT TO COPYRIGHT IF THE REVISION BILL

WITH ITS EXTENDED TERM OF PROTECTION WERE TO BECOME LAW.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE LAST COPYRIGHT EXTENSION BILL EXTENDED THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1974, THE TERM OF COPYRIGHT FOR EXISTING WORKS WHOSE RENEWAL TERM WOULD OTHERWISE EXPIRE BEFORE THAT DATE. THE QUESTIONS NOW ARISE AS TO WHETHER THE CONGRESS WILL AGAIN VOTE A TEMPORARY COPYRIGHT EXTENSION BEYOND DECEMBER 31, 1974, WHETHER IT WILL PASS THE REVISION BILL BEFORE THAT DATE, OR WHETHER A NUMBER OF COPYRIGHTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO LAPSE AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1974. IT APPEARS UNLIKELY AT THIS TIME THAT THE REVISION BILL WILL BE PASSED BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER. HOWEVER, WHILE POSITIVE ACTION HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ANOTHER COPYRIGHT EXTENSION BILL MAY BE PASSED BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1974.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILL BRING THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN YOUR LETTER OF (DATE) TO THE ATTENTION OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHICH IS CONSIDERING THE LEGISLATION TO REVISE THE U.S. COPYRIGHT LAW.

2. EMBASSY FYI: IT APPEARS ASCAP HAS REQUESTED PERFORMING RIGHTS SOCIETIES SUCH AS SIAE TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO USG REGARDING THE COPYRIGHT EXTENSION LEGISLATION. REVIEW OF OUR FILES INDICATES SIAE EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS IN LETTER TO EMBASSY DATED JUNE 23, 1972. SINCE SITUATION PRIMARILY SAME AS IN 1972, DEPARTMENT HAS FOLLOWED ESSENTIALLY SAME POINTS AS EXPRESSED TO SIAE IN LETTER DATED AUGUST 7, 1972. END FYI BROWN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COPYRIGHT AGREEMENTS, COPYRIGHT LAW  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EB  
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